

# LINE COPY

Volume I, 2002



*An electrical malfunction caused an early morning fire at the Cavalier Club Apartments located at 6200 Wilson Boulevard in the Seven Corners area of the county on April 12, 2002. Residents on the fourth through seventh floors were evacuated by firefighters.*



Edward L. Stinnette

*"... as command officers it is important that everyone on the fire ground understand what operational mode we are operating under and that a change in operations is clearly understood by everyone involved in the event."*

## From The Fire Chief . . .

I have just finished reviewing the final report completed by the Significant Injury Investigative Team on the Braddock Springs fire. This was the first time we've completed such an in-depth investigation and I'm well aware that many of you are concerned about the amount of time it took to publish the report. First, let me say that the investigative team did an excellent job. It was their first formal investigation and they have learned many things from the process that will be beneficial should we ever need to activate another team. Trying to conduct such an extensive investigation in a timely manner and having the team remain on shift work proved to be somewhat problematic for the team. But again, this is the first such investigation of this nature and we'll learn from the process.

I want to remind everyone that the purpose of this investigation was to learn from our actions, to better prepare for similar events, and to ensure what we are calling "a near miss" never becomes a tragedy for our organization. As a team, the actions of the men and women operating on the scene of this very difficult and dynamic event were outstanding. However, there are issues in this report that concern me. Besides various system issues, like communications that we've been addressing, some basic firefighting and safety principals were violated. We have the opportunity to address some of these shortcomings and to ensure that we don't repeat our mistakes.

Freelancing and lack of crew accountability have time and time again led to firefighter injury or death on emergency incidents. It is imperative that our officers maintain crew accountability and no one is allowed to freelance. Personnel deciding what needs to be accomplished and taking actions without receiving direction from command is a violation of a basic principal of incident command. We all know better, but in this case it appears the heat of battle and the added stress of firefighters missing and trapped caused us to violate our training

regimen. It is during those times that we must be at the top of our game and perform the way we trained if we're going to ensure the safest possible environment for our firefighters.

Additionally, as command officers it is important that everyone on the fire ground understand what operational mode we are operating under and that a change in operations is clearly understood by everyone involved in the event. As an example, we cannot have an offensive and defensive operation occurring simultaneously, also the operational mode should be voiced when the 10-minute event timer is received.

I am aware that there are those who think our accountability system needs to be overhauled. I don't necessarily disagree, but until we have revised or adopted a new system it is very important that we use our current system until it's changed.

It is also the responsibility of senior staff officers to provide the necessary assistance to the incident commander and not become involved in task activities. I believe that the incident command training that is now occurring will help us address some of these issues. Hopefully, by the time you receive this issue of *Line Copy* you will have had the opportunity to read and study the significant injury investigation report. As an organization we will be working to address the recommendations outlined in the report.

The intent of this article is not to discuss the entire report but to raise the organizational awareness of how vulnerable we are when we fail to follow operational guidelines and adhere to our basic training principals.

In closing, I want to assure everyone that the purpose of this investigation is to learn from our mistakes and not to fix blame. I hope that you will use this report as a training tool and work with the recovery team to implement many of the recommendations. I want to again say thanks to the team and commend everyone who operated on this very difficult and challenging fire. ♦

Edward L. Stinnette, *Fire Chief*  
Dan Schmidt, *Editor*

Jackie Lewis, *Production Editor*  
Scotty Boatright, *Staff Photographer*

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# From The Editor . . .



I would like to take this opportunity to give our public relations course a plug. The three-day course is offered once or twice annually and is designed for company officers to better understand what public relations or public affairs is and what it isn't. The course is on the career development list and has been well attended for past several years. I also want to make sure people know that it exists and what's covered. Blocks of instruction and subject matter include: the Emergency Management Public Information Officer, what are the media, writing skills for PIO's, speaking to groups, news interviews and conferences, awareness campaigns, emergency public information, a news media panel, and press conference training.

The course is designed to give the company officer a basic understanding of the media, how firefighters fit into the media picture, and a short practical exercise that allows everyone to participate in a news interview session on camera. We also expose everyone to the community outreach/relations side of serving the public. This part is especially important as this targets either the general population or specific audiences that are at risk or vulnerable. The audience could be either seniors, children, businesses, or the average citizen.

The instructors try to keep the subject matter fresh, and the interaction lively. We use examples of campaigns, incidents, or stories that have occurred and talk through the good, not-so-good, and see how it could of been done differently. The news panel and on-camera exercises are both popular, of course, depending which side you're on at the time.

I want to say thank you to Lieutenant Mark Stone, Renee Stilwell, and Lieutenant Lorenzo Thrower for bringing "top-notch" instruction for our company officers as they continue in their careers. If you have the opportunity, I highly recommend the course.



*In celebration of National Mentoring Month, Fairfax Mentoring Partnership (FMP) held its first annual FMP Recognition Luncheon. The luncheon sponsored by SAIC was held on January 10, 2002. Del Walters was the master of ceremonies and awards were presented to Shari Zamarra and Steve Ferber, Fairfax Partnership for Youth board members, leaders of FMP, and Fire and Rescue Department representatives. Tania Hindert of Fairfax Mentoring Partnership presents awards to (left to right) Lieutenant Patrick J. Morrison (Occupational Health and Safety), Captain II John J. Caussin (Fire and Rescue Station 24, C-Shift), Captain II Floyd L. Elmore (Fire and Rescue Station 10, A-Shift) and Technician Alonzo E. Robinson (Fire and Rescue Station 10, A-Shift) for their ongoing support of mentoring.*

## This Issue . . .

From The Fire Chief .....	2
From The Editor .....	3
Twenty-Third Annual Valor Awards .....	4
Hot Shots .....	8
Thank You .....	10
Top Ten Activity Report .....	11
Community Outreach Highlights .....	12
Large Loss .....	13
Awards & Presentations .....	14
Retirements/Taking Up/Anniversaries/New Hires .....	15
Station Profile .....	16

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Fire and Rescue Department Web Site.**

**Our Web Site address is:  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov>**

# 2001 Valor Awards



*Bronze Medal*  
Firefighter  
**Craig S. Furneisen**  
Station 4, B-Shift

Type of Incident: Water Rescue  
Date: October 12, 2001  
Submitted By: Lieutenant Jerome I. Williams  
Fire and Rescue Academy

On Saturday, August 18, 2001, Firefighter Furneisen was off-duty and enjoying a vacation with his family at Emerald Isle, North Carolina. As he relaxed on the beach, Firefighter Furneisen observed three people swimming in the ocean who appeared to be struggling against the choppy surf. Realizing the swimmers (a father with his two sons) were in danger, and without regard to his own personal safety, Firefighter Furneisen entered the water to assist. His family recognized there were no lifeguards on duty in this area, and prepared to assist not only the three endangered swimmers, but also Firefighter Furneisen in the event the intended rescuer became a victim.

Reaching the now tiring group, Firefighter Furneisen first grabbed the youngest male and carefully swam him to safety. After leaving him with his sister, Firefighter Furneisen returned to the treacherous water to aid in assisting the remaining two males to shore.

After recuperating on shore for a length of time, the father approached Firefighter Furneisen and thanked him for saving their lives. The father stated that he alone did not have the strength remaining to save his sons, and that without his assistance and direct intervention, all could have been lost.

The actions taken by Firefighter Furneisen surely prevented this family from an event of tragic proportions. His quick assessment of the

situation and rapid response to render assistance, speak highly of his dedication and commitment to public safety, regardless of the location. ❖



*Certificate of Valor*  
EMS Technician  
**Kat Gaines**  
Station 16, A-Shift

Type of Incident: Airplane Crash into the Pentagon  
Date: December 12, 2001  
Submitted By: Battalion Chief Ralph F. Phillips  
Battalion 3, A-Shift

As we all awoke on the morning of September 11, 2001, no one could anticipate how all of our lives would change that day.

Technician Kat Gaines left Fire and Rescue Station 16 after her 24-hour shift. She drove home to get a uniform for her part-time job at Reagan National Airport where she is a baggage handler for US Airways shuttle. While driving on the Dulles Toll Road, she heard on the radio that an airplane had hit the World Trade Center (WTC). She called her son at home to find out more information, but was cut off. Her son called back, and as they were talking, the second of the World Trade Center buildings was hit. Not knowing which airlines had hit the WTC buildings sent a shudder down her spine, as she knows most of the crews who fly out of Reagan National Airport. Her route of travel to Reagan National Airport took her south on Route 110, past Arlington National Cemetery and in front of the parking lots of the Pentagon. The weather was nice, she had her car windows down, and as she approached the parking lot heard a familiar but now very strange sound. She turned to her

right and saw a very large low flying airliner with its belly striking the top of the telephone poles. She now heard this object "power up", and saw it strike the Pentagon like "a bullet." She pulled over and now the realization had struck her that an airplane had crashed into the Pentagon. She immediately exited her car and ran toward the catastrophe. A large amount of fire engulfed the airplane and the Pentagon. It was very hard to see for all the thick black smoke. She realized that the high heat and explosions would make it impossible to get close to the plane, but without regard for her own personal safety, she moved in as close as she could. There were people coming out of the Pentagon, in what she described as "mass mayhem." There were no EMS or fire units on the scene, and without any personal protective gear or EMS equipment she acted to help in whatever manner she could. The people coming out had injuries ranging from smoke inhalation to severe burns. She started directing them away to a safe area in the parking lot.

Two women coughing and covered in soot stumbled barefoot toward her. Technician Gaines asked why they had no shoes, and the ladies explained that during the time of impact they were in a meeting and were literally blown out of their shoes. A service member came stumbling out, and Technician Gaines identified herself as a paramedic with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, he stated that both his arms were burned and he was blinded. Seeing that he was indeed severely burned, she told him to stay with her and led him to safety by having him grab her ponytail. As they approached the parking lot she saw a military nurse. Technician Gaines identified herself to the nurse and they established a triage area. Technician Gaines went back to the "hot zone" to assist more patients. As fire and EMS units arrived she was able to get equipment to help more people.

The event started at 9:40 a.m., by 3 p.m. all viable patients had been treated and transported. Technician Gaines was mentally and physically exhausted, and now finally had a moment to step back and realize what had happened.

Shortly after leaving, she notified me of her actions and requested guidance about what to do

next. I informed her to notify the on duty safety officer so that she could make sure that the proper exposure reports were completed.

The actions that Technician Gaines took on September 11, 2001 were those of a hero. She immediately jumped into action without regard to her own safety. If she had not taken the actions that she did more lives would have been lost. ❖



*Certificate of Valor*  
**Lieutenant**  
**Michael P. Graham**  
**Station 8, B- Shift**

Type of Incident: Garden Apartment Fire  
Date: December 8, 2001  
Submitted By: Battalion Chief Glenn P. Benarick  
Battalion 4, B-Shift

**L**ieutenant Graham was the officer in charge of Truck 408 on this incident, a fire in a garden apartment.

The fire occurred at 1754 hours, originating in the kitchen of an apartment at the above address. The building was three stories in the front and four in the rear. Truck 408 arrived simultaneously with Engine 408, positioning in the rear of the address. There was heavy fire showing from a second floor apartment in the rear. Heavy smoke conditions had already transmitted to the third and fourth floors. Upon his arrival, Lieutenant Graham noticed three occupants of an apartment on the fourth floor at a bedroom window. Heavy black smoke was enveloping this window opening. It was obvious to Lieutenant Graham that these three individuals were in immediate danger due to the deteriorating conditions. He was concerned that they may jump if immediate rescue actions were not initiated. He directed his driver to raise the aerial ladder to this window while he and his other crew member raised an extension ladder to this window, instructing the occupants to wait until he came up the ladder for them. Once he climbed the ladder to the window he found an



adult male, an adult female, and one child. He instructed the adult male to wait until he was able to get the female and child on the ladder and down to safety. The aerial of Truck 8 was also being raised to this window at the same time.

Once he got the child situated on the ladder, he instructed him to descend down to the ground. He was hesitant to follow the child down because he was afraid the two adults would jump onto the ladder. The adult male was trying to push his way out ahead of the others. Lieutenant Graham had the fortitude and presence of mind to swing himself over the side of his extension ladder, bracing himself against the window sill, thereby allowing the adult female to descend down the ladder. At the same time this was going on, he was able to convince the male adult to stay put until the aerial was in place. Shortly thereafter, Truck 8's aerial was in place, allowing the adult male a means of egress with the assistance of the truck driver.

All three citizens were treated on the scene and transported to the hospital for further treatment and tests. There is no doubt in my mind that if not for the quick thinking of Lieutenant Graham, there would have been serious injuries sustained by these three citizens. Due to the conditions in their apartment, all three may have jumped if not for the actions of Lieutenant Graham and his crew. ♦



*Life Saving Award*  
**Lieutenant**

**Kerwin A. McNamara**  
Fire Prevention Division  
Investigations Section

Type of Incident: Victim Choking in Restaurant  
Date: September 14, 2001  
Submitted By: Captain II David M. McKernan

**O**n June 3, 2001, Lieutenant McNamara was off-duty, eating lunch at the Sully Steakhouse with his wife. While they were dining, Lieutenant McNamara observed a disturbance at a nearby table. He quickly realized that a male patron was exhibiting signs of choking and in severe distress. Immediately

responding to the situation, Lieutenant McNamara arrived to find the victim's son attempting to dislodge the obstruction, but with no success.

As the victim's lips and face began to turn blue from lack of oxygen, Lieutenant McNamara took control and performed a successful Heimlick Maneuver, dislodging the obstruction. The victim, Raymond L. Tolson, regained his breathing and recovered completely.

Mr. Wilson, the restaurant manager, was quite clear when he stated, "I believe your investigator saved Mr. Tolson's life."

An adult choking on food is a far too common occurrence, often resulting in respiratory and cardiac arrest. It is termed a "Café Coronary" due to the frequency of it happening in restaurants. With only seconds to act before a victim becomes unconscious, prompt and appropriate action is a must. In retrospect, realizing that the victim's son was not having success in dislodging the obstruction, it is quite apparent that the quick actions of Lieutenant Kerwin McNamara may very well have saved a life. ♦



*Certificate of Valor*  
**Technician**

**Kristin A. Wallace**  
Station 15, C-Shift

Type of Incident: Vehicle Crash  
Date: March 13, 2001  
Submitted By: Captain II James B. Ault

**O**n Sunday, February 18, 2001, I responded to Baron Cameron Avenue and Wiehle Avenue in Reston for a vehicle crash reported to have a trapped victim. On arrival, I observed that a Jeep had struck a sedan broadside and forced the vehicle across several traffic lanes. This indicated a significant impact had occurred.

Once I approached the sedan, I realized that a passerby was assisting the occupant. The person

assisting the victim was Kristin Wallace, an EMS Technician with our department.

Technician Wallace informed me that the victim was unconscious and in severe respiratory distress. She further informed me that the victim was developing a tension pneumothorax, a life-threatening complication if left untreated. After on-scene medics and myself confirmed her assessment with a stethoscope, immediate needle-chest decompression was initiated with marked improvement in the patient's condition. Technician Wallace continued to care for the victim, providing paramedics with a full and accurate assessment of the patient. Without the benefit of personal protective equipment, she remained in the severely damaged vehicle, attending to the injured and bloody victim, until assistance arrived. Technician Wallace continued to assist rescue crews until they transferred the victim to the helicopter for transport.

Technician Wallace informed me after the incident that she was travelling with her husband, a Fairfax County Police Officer, and happened upon the crash shortly after it occurred. While she left her vehicle to assess the scene for injuries, her husband was contacting the 911-dispatch center on his radio. She returned to her husband's car briefly and informed him to relay the need for additional paramedic units and a helicopter due to the seriousness of the incident. This early decision proved to be instrumental in the rapid treatment and transport of the victim.

Additionally, the thorough and concise triage and assessment she performed allowed arriving paramedics to deliver timely treatment to the patient. In fact, her assessment of the tension pneumothorax, without the availability of a stethoscope, could only be accomplished by a well-trained and experienced EMS provider.

I was later informed by the emergency room nurse and the lead flight medic that the quick actions were directly credited in saving the life of this critical patient. Had it not been for Technician Wallace arriving and reporting the accident, requesting the appropriate emergency units, and rapidly stabilizing and assessing the patient's life-threatening condition, this patient might very well have succumbed to his injuries.



***Certificate of Valor***  
**Lieutenant**  
**Michael P. Regan**  
**Station 39, B-Shift**



***Bronze Medal***  
**Master Technician**  
**Jeffrey T. Wharton**  
**Station 39, C-Shift**



***Bronze Medal***  
**Firefighter**  
**Richard S. Slepetz**  
**Station 39, C-Shift**

Type of Incident: Earthen Trench Collapse

Date: July 27, 2001

Submitted By: Captain I James J. Walsh

Operating on the scene of an earthen trench collapse is inherently dangerous even when rescuers are equipped with specialized tools and equipment. The danger of further collapse of already unstable soil is ever present. It is for this reason, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has developed a team of Trench Rescue Specialists and response units.

Arriving as first responders on these incidents, with limited manpower and non-specialized tools carried on Rescue Companies, increases the danger and forces firefighters to make rapid and critical decisions related to rescue attempts. In nominating the crew of Rescue Company 439, I gave careful consideration to the fact that they used great judgement, ingenuity, and poise that ultimately resulted in the successful rescue of a trapped victim.

Rescue Company 439, with a crew consisting of Lieutenant Michael P. Regan, Master Technician Jeffrey T. Wharton, and Firefighter Scott S.





# Hot Shots



Three-alarm fire in a garden apartment complex under construction located at 13035 Elm Tree Drive in Herndon (above and below). Technician Ronald B. Evans (right) and Firefighter Jennifer Svites (Fire and Rescue Station 29, B-Shift) perform overhaul. Photo by Sheldon Levi.



Rescue Company 414 extricates a patient from a three-vehicle crash on the Fairfax County Parkway south of Popes Head Road. The patient was medevaced to Inova Fairfax Hospital in serious condition. The driver of a pick-up truck involved in the crash was DOA at the scene.



Eight of the 37 units were involved when the first arriving units marked on the scene. Firefighters mounted an aggressive attack and prevented significant damage to adjoining apartment units.



Driver training going bad . . . units from Fox Mill, Reston, and Fair Oaks inspect the stability of the apartment building on Freetown Court. Their were no injuries reported. Photo by Sheldon Levi.





Units from Fire and Rescue Station 8, 14, and 22 respond to a large brush fire at Wakefield Park. Technician Manuel Stribling (left) (Fire and Rescue Station 14, C-Shift), and Technician Kristin Russell (Fire and Rescue Station 8, C-Shift), extinguish the hot spots. Photo by Josh Allen.



The Fairfax County Combat Challenge Team were spotlighted on the Streamlight Survivor Championship on ESPN and ESPN2 on January 12, 2002. The Fairfax County Combat Challenge Team won the relay tournament beating Windsor, Ontario, Canada, for the World Championship. Left to right: Technician Rodney Vaughn (Fire and Rescue Station 30, A-Shift), Lieutenant Samuel Gray (Fire and Rescue Station 1, A-Shift), Firefighter James Brodie McKendree (Fire and Rescue Station 19, A-Shift), Lieutenant Joseph Kneer (Fire and Rescue Station 25, B-Shift), and Lieutenant Jerome Williams (Fire and Rescue Academy).



Fire Chief Edward L. Stinnette is joined by Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (Hunter Mill), staff, and student-patrols from Vienna Elementary School during a flag presentation at the Fire and Rescue Academy. The commemorative flag, created by students at the school, made its way to the Fire and Rescue Academy after hanging at the Public Safety Communications Center for a month. The flag left the Fire and Rescue Academy in March for a final journey to The Pentagon, where it will be on permanent display.

(continued from page 7)

Slepetz, was dispatched to a reported "building" collapse in the area of Cedar Chase Road in western Fairfax County. Upon their arrival, a citizen informed them that two people were trapped in a trench to the rear of a home. The crew discovered an approximately 20 foot long trench, 8 feet deep and only 30 inches wide. A section of the trench had a slough-in (collapse) measuring approximately 8 feet long, trapping two workers.

Further assessment revealed that one of the victims was visible along the trench wall, covered in dirt with only his head, left arm, and left chest exposed. This victim was rapidly showing signs of deterioration with labored breathing. The second victim was completely covered, the top of his head visible only through a small crevice. Lieutenant Regan could elicit no response from this trapped person.

Sizing up the situation, acknowledging the instability of the remaining trench wall, the limited tools and manpower, but the urgent need to free the partially trapped victim, the crew of Rescue Company 439 began operations. Tools were retrieved and they began digging with shovels and bars to free the victim. Realizing that a more efficient means of moving a large area of dirt would be critical to free the victim, Lieutenant Regan made the decision to have the operator of a backhoe, under careful direction from the Rescue Company crew, remove some of the collapsed soil. This proved successful, further freeing the partially trapped victim, allowing his breathing difficulty to improve. This maneuver also partially uncovered the second victim, allowing rescuer access. Continued aggressive digging with hand shovels by Master Technician Wharton and Firefighter Slepetz, assisted by other construction workers on the scene, enabled them to free the first victim and move him to safety and the care of arriving paramedics.

With the still present danger of a secondary collapse, the crew of Rescue Company 439 turned their attention to the other victim. After removing additional collapsed soil from his upper body, an assessment revealed he was

without vital signs and still heavily trapped in compacted soil. These findings unfortunately led to the decision to revert to a recovery operation for the victim.

Through their diligence, perseverance, and ability to adapt, Lieutenant Regan, Master Technician Wharton, and Firefighter Slepetz not only met a challenge above that which would be expected, but exacted a favorable outcome in a situation that placed them in a very unstable and dangerous environment. ♦

February 22, 2002

Tyson's Corner Fire Department  
Station 29  
1560 Spring Hill Road  
McLean, VA 22102-3004

Attn: Chief Stinnette

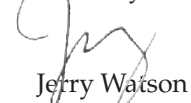
Dear Firefighters,

Thank you for the heroic efforts performed by your department on January 29, when our home at 850 Dolley Madison Boulevard caught fire. You responded quickly and professionally.

Our losses from the fire could have been devastating if your men had not taken the extra step of covering our furniture and floors with cloths and taking the paintings and family mementos off the walls. The careful attention to these details have allowed us to make the rebuilding process that much easier.

Not only do I want to thank you for putting out the fire at my home but I want to thank you for your daily commitment to saving lives and protecting peoples well being. I am truly grateful to be in a community supported by rescue workers like you.

Sincerely,



Jerry Watson



### *A Note of Appreciation to My Fire Department Family*

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for their kindness and compassion during a recent family tragedy. When we learned that our 18-year-old daughter, Jenny had been killed in an accident, we were stunned and unable to function. The very next day, several Fire Department representatives came to help. They coordinated accommodations for out of town family, provided food and transportation. Many firefighters helped to set up the memorial service and coordinated the food for the reception and cleanup. We learned after the service that several firefighters volunteered to work in exchange for Station 22, C-Shift, members so they could attend the service. There are no words that can adequately express our gratitude. We thank all the members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department for your prayers and support.

*Frank and Debbie Geiger*

## Top 10 Activity Report

### January/February/March 2002

#### Ambulance

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
A 408	533
A 413	532
A 430	519
A 409	506
A 410	485
A 414	460
A 411	429
A 428	413
A 434	393
A 436	384

#### Engine Company

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
E 409	743
E 410	736
E 408	694
E 411	690
E 401	670
E 422	661
E 426	636
E 404	627
E 421	616
E 429	612

#### Rescue Company

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
R 426	356
R 418	349
R 421	324
R 411	272
R 401	268
R 419	229
R 414	212
R 439	206

#### Medic

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
M 418	787
M 426	674
M 410	653
M 422	645
M 408	643
M 425	608
M 405	600
M 409	594
M 421	585
M 401	572

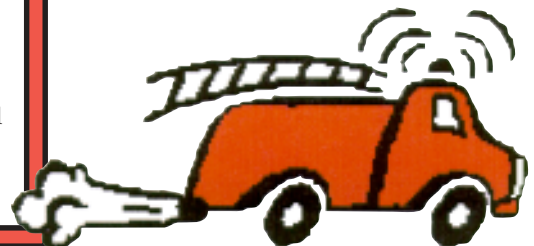
#### Battalion Chiefs & EMS Captains

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
EMS5	441
EMS4	389
EMS3	372
EMS6	353
EMS2	306
EMS1	293
BC04	199
BC05	144
BC06	141
BC03	128

#### Ladder Company

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
T 410	369
T 425	313
T 429	306
T 422	292
T 408	285
T 411	234
T 430	228
T 401	221
T 436	220
T 405	183

Unit activity is compiled from the event history file. A unit must be dispatched to a call to be included in an event history file. A unit add-on is not considered a dispatch. Mutual aid dispatches are included in the activity report.



# Community Outreach Highlights



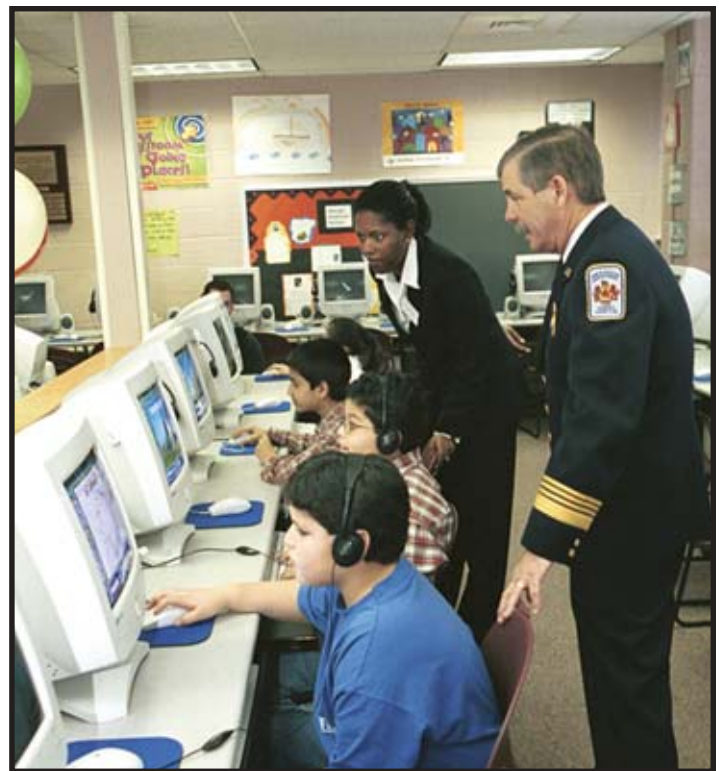
Working together to educate older adults is a community service that benefits us all. Special thanks to Rescue Company 426, B-Shift, and Technician Terrance Fayson, Station 26, B-Shift, for assisting Debbie Showalter (Public Information and Life Safety Education) with a File of Life presentation. Along with Chinese interpreters, over 100 blood pressures were taken at the Pimmit Hills Senior Center.



Firefighters and Life Safety Education personnel assisted over 60 parents/caregivers with child seat inspections at Fire and Rescue Station 23 on February 28.

**Do you have a  
community outreach  
project at your fire and  
rescue station? Call us  
and we'll publish it in  
Line Copy.**

*The Power of Partnership . . . Fire Chief Edward Stinnette attended the Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School Computer Learning Centers Partnership grand opening on Wednesday, February 27, 2002. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department along with Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax County Office of Partnerships, Xybernaut Corporation, American Systems Corporation, University of Virginia, Human Services Systems Administration, Booz Allen Hamilton, and Venute Interiors have joined together to teach computer literacy and use technology to enhance the development of the whole child.*





# Large Loss Fire Investigations

<b>Date:</b> 1/03/02 <b>Box:</b> 1100 <b>Address:</b> 6224 Quander Road <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Electrical <b>Value:</b> \$100,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$50,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 1/04/02 <b>Box:</b> 4218 <b>Address:</b> 510 Woodland Court <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Smoking <b>Value:</b> \$150,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$50,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 1/05/02 <b>Box:</b> 3200 <b>Address:</b> 11020 Clara Barton Drive <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Ashes <b>Value:</b> \$767,600 <b>Loss:</b> \$316,800 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 1/07/02 <b>Box:</b> 0900 <b>Address:</b> 1408 Cool Springs Drive <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Under Investigation <b>Value:</b> \$600,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$600,000 <b>Status:</b> Open
<b>Date:</b> 1/08/02 <b>Box:</b> 0595 <b>Address:</b> 5809 Piedmont Drive <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Electrical <b>Value:</b> \$300,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$50,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 1/29/02 <b>Box:</b> 0146 <b>Address:</b> 850 Dolly Madison Boulevard <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Electrical <b>Value:</b> \$3,000,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$500,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 2/02/02 <b>Box:</b> 31111 <b>Address:</b> 2139 Colts Court <b>Type:</b> Townhouse <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Fireplace <b>Value:</b> \$155,655 <b>Loss:</b> \$60,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 2/03/02 <b>Box:</b> 0590 <b>Address:</b> 5211 Ninian Avenue <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Furnace <b>Value:</b> \$165,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$50,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 2/08/02 <b>Box:</b> 2694 <b>Address:</b> 4910 Fran Place <b>Type:</b> Apartment <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Candle <b>Value:</b> \$750,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$750,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 2/13/02 <b>Box:</b> 3707 <b>Address:</b> 6702 Red Bird Woods Court <b>Type:</b> Townhouse <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Ashes <b>Value:</b> \$173,873 <b>Loss:</b> \$75,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 2/13/02 <b>Box:</b> 0191 <b>Address:</b> 2038 Freedom Lane <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Candle <b>Value:</b> \$300,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$80,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 2/16/02 <b>Box:</b> 3507 <b>Address:</b> 8805 Lorfax Drive <b>Type:</b> Outside <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Smoking <b>Value:</b> \$100,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$50,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 2/16/02 <b>Box:</b> 1620 <b>Address:</b> 6321 Windpattern Trail <b>Type:</b> House <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Furnace <b>Value:</b> \$318,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$50,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 2/19/02 <b>Box:</b> 0414 <b>Address:</b> 13035 Elm Tree Drive <b>Type:</b> Apartment <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Furnace <b>Value:</b> \$1,000,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$250,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed
<b>Date:</b> 2/19/02 <b>Box:</b> 0322 <b>Address:</b> 4803 Tapestry Drive <b>Type:</b> Structure <b>Cause:</b> Accidental-Electrical <b>Value:</b> \$75,000 <b>Loss:</b> \$75,000 <b>Status:</b> Closed

## 11th Annual Retiree's Golf Outing

Make plans to come out on Monday, September 30, 2002, at the Evergreen County Club to support the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Retirement Association, Inc. and to benefit the Firefighters' Fund of Fairfax County.

The fee is \$100 per golfer that includes: green fees, cart, and range balls; beverages on course; lunch and dinner; one raffle ticket for clubs and bag; gross and net division (long drive, closest to pin prizes); and awards ceremony and door prizes. To obtain a team entry form call Bill Green - (703) 591-2026, Sonny Flynn - (703) 560-3715, Gary Pope - (703) 246-2410, or Kim Hamilton - (703) 929-5187.

### Fire and Rescue Department Child Passenger Safety Bi-weekly Checkpoints

May - June 2002

Date	Shift	Station	Time
May 24	C	18	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
June 21	A	Academy	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

# Awards & Presentations

## Valor Awards

### **Bronze Medal**

Firefighter Craig S. Furneisen  
Master Technician Jeffrey T. Wharton  
Firefighter Richard S. Slepetz

### **Certificate of Valor**

Lieutenant Michael P. Regan  
Technician Kristin A. Wallace  
Lieutenant Michael P. Graham  
Technician Kat Gaines

### **Life Saving Award**

Lieutenant Kerwin A. McNamara

## Career Achievement Award

Master Technician Douglas L. Emerson  
Battalion Chief Chris G. Hunter  
Lieutenant Carlton G. Burkhammer  
Lieutenant Jeff S. Lewis

## Team Performance

### **Station 39 Set-Up Team**

Battalion Chief Edward M. Brinkley  
Captain I James J. Walsh  
Captain I Robert S. Lison  
Lieutenant Michael P. Regan  
Master Tech. Jeffrey T. Wharton  
Tech. William E. Teal  
Tech. Rocco Alvaro

### **Collingwood Road**

#### **Ambulance 409**

Firefighter Kenneth W. Clark  
Master Technician Mark R. Crawford

### **Engine 405**

Master Technician David J. May  
Lieutenant Donald L. Vaught  
Firefighter Gregory A. Affeldt  
Firefighter Robert E. Pickel

### **Engine 409**

Firefighter Jared B. Goff  
Captain I Philip A. Pommerening  
Lieutenant Edward Padgett  
Firefighter Donald L. Rohr

### **Medic 409**

Technician Barry W. Maham  
Lieutenant Raul G. Castillo

### **Medic 419**

Technician Larry L. Duncan  
Lieutenant John W. Fedorshik

### **Medic 424**

Lieutenant Timothy N. Dunaway  
Technician Randolph M. Payne

### **Rescue 411**

Lieutenant Domenick P. Iannelli  
Technician John C. Guy  
Technician Jeffrey F. Klopp

### **Rescue 419**

Lieutenant Daniel L. Whitmer  
Technician Michael W. Conover  
Firefighter Diron D. Powell

### **Battalion 406**

Battalion Chief Eric D. Walker

### **EMS 406**

Captain II David J. Lyons

### **New Braddock Road**

#### **Medic 417**

Lieutenant Michael White  
Firefighter Alison Jaquays

### **Engine 417**

Lieutenant Dennis Passmore  
Technician Joe K. Cox  
Technician Kristin A. Wallace  
Firefighter Richard D. Gundert

### **Ambulance 438**

Technician Troy D. Weatherholtz  
Firefighter James A. Flynn

### **Rescue 421**

**Captain I** Gregory A. Bunch  
Master Technician John C. Mayers  
Master Technician Mark F. Lucas  
Technician Kevin D. Runnels

### **Medic 423**

**Captain I** Harry E. Scott  
Lieutenant Natalie D. Robb

### **Engine 432**

Lieutenant Kendall Thompson  
Master Technician David J. Higgins  
Technician David W. Walker  
Technician Ronald S. Furlong

### **EMS 403**

Captain II Kevin L. Kincaid

### **Battalion 403**

Battalion Chief Thomas B. Watson

## Safe Driving Award

### **3 Years**

Technician Carolyn R. Ruwe  
Firefighter David S. Gaertner

### **6 Years**

Technician David L. Taylor  
Technician Steve D. Norris

### **15 Years**

Technician James A. Potter  
Master Technician John Chabal



Master Technician Douglas L. Emerson (left) receives his third Career Achievement Award from Lieutenant William B. Harlowe for his work with the Residential Hoarding Program.



Deputy Chief Derek A. Baker presents Lieutenant Jeffrey S. Lewis (Fire and Rescue Station 11, B-Shift) with a Career Achievement Award for his creation of a simple, but effective computer database program that maintains the medical cache inventory for Virginia Task Force 1. The award nomination for Lieutenant Lewis was written by Dr. Anthony MacIntyre (left) and Dr. William Barker (right).



# Retirements

Master Technician John T. Schortemeyer  
January 3, 1977 – January 3, 2002

Mary E. Schrum  
Administrative Assistant  
August 13, 1974 - January 3, 2002

Technician George V. Shepherd  
December 11, 1972 – January 8, 2002

Technician Donald M. Weirich  
March 7, 1967 – January 11, 2002

Technician Donald C. Booth  
October 1, 1973 – January 25, 2002



*Fire Chief Edward Stinnette presents Mary Schrum with her retirement plaque at her farewell luncheon on December 18, 2001. Ms. Schrum worked for the Fire and Rescue Department in the Fire Chief's Office from April 11, 1987 until her retirement on January 3, 2002.*

**25 Years**  
Captain II Steven A. Edwards  
Lieutenant Dennis C. Fiddler  
Master Technician John A. Helfrich  
Captain II David J. Lyons  
Master Technician Keith E. Pearson  
Captain I Michael J. Piantedosi  
Captain I Clyde D. Pittard Sr.  
Captain II Mark A. Rohr

**30 Years**  
Master Technician  
Walter L. Baughman Jr.  
Battalion Chief Ralph F. Phillips  
Captain I Robert J. Spoone  
Captain I Stuart E. Supinger  
Captain I Curtis G. Thomas

## Taking Up



**Technician  
Donald C. Booth**

**Entry Date:** October 1, 1973

**Retirement Date:** January 25, 2002

**Assignments:** Fire and Rescue Stations 4, 23, 22, 26, 5, and 18

**Likes about the Fire Department:** Every call is different and the great dedicated people that I have had the opportunity to work with.

**Will miss about the Fire Department:** Camaraderie and those great fire house diners.

**Plans for the future:** Finish the airplane I've started building and use it to see this great country.

**Words of wisdom:** Think about what you are doing and how it will affect the people around you.

**What got you interested in the fire service?** The thought that going to work could make a positive impact on the community and still get paid and have fun.

**Who or what made an influence in your career?** Sergeant Mark Baker, Captain Marshall Curtis, and Captain Danny Bickham.

## Anniversaries

**5 Years**  
Technician Randal L. Bittinger  
Technician Matthew D. Black  
Patricia M. Blankenship,  
Management Analyst I  
Technician Ronnie N. Briscoe  
Technician Luther D. Campbell  
Technician Mark D. Ebersole  
Firefighter James A. Flynn  
Technician William L. Franklin  
Technician Steven T. Henry  
Firefighter Toussaint M. Holland  
Lieutenant Jason R. Jenkins  
Technician Herbert M. Knerr Jr.  
Technician Michael J. McQuade  
Firefighter George H. Moore  
Firefighter Trina L. Mosier  
Technician David E. Myers  
Technician Timothy L. Nicholson  
Firefighter Robert G. Ritchie  
Technician Eric A. Russell  
Technician Michael L. Sease II  
Technician Ronald W. Swarthout Jr.

**15 Years**  
Technician Jerome D. Barbour  
Lieutenant William M. Bertone  
Technician Paul R. Ellis  
Captain I Edith M. Eshleman  
Lieutenant Craig S. Luecke  
Lieutenant Michael G. McCullen  
Captain I John W. Morris  
Master Technician Leslie C. Smith  
Master Technician Robert L. Upchurch  
Lieutenant Joseph J. Vacchio Jr.  
Firefighter George W. Weaver  
Master Technician Jeffrey T. Wharton

## New Hires

Firefighter Duane N. Black III  
Firefighter Carolyn P. Carmody  
Firefighter Colleen M. Chapman  
Firefighter Justin D. Childs  
Firefighter Aron J. Corwin  
Firefighter Matthew T. Cox  
Firefighter Anthony D. Craft  
Firefighter Marguerite D. Dabe-Colby  
Firefighter Trisha A. Danula  
Firefighter Mary J. Getts  
Firefighter John D. Hollingsworth  
Firefighter Thomas N. Johnson  
Joseph Peralis Jr., Instructor III  
Firefighter Brenden J. Petersburg  
Firefighter Matthew E. Phillips  
Firefighter Marc O. Saldivar  
Catherine G. Schultz  
Management Analyst III  
Firefighter Jay W. Smith  
Firefighter John E. Smith  
Firefighter Michael S. Snapp  
Linda D. Williams  
Material Requirements Specialist  
Firefighter Robert J. Williams  
Firefighter Scott Zimmerman





## Station Profile

### Reston Fire and Rescue Station #25

**Captain II**  
**James T. Ghi**  
Station Commander

**Station constructed:** April 1972

**Station specialty:** None

**Square miles in first due area:** 10.4

**Specific hazardous/target areas:** Commercial and residential high-rise nursing homes (several high-rises are non-sprinklered, two or three non-sprinklered high-rises house elderly populations), several lakes, Dulles Toll/ Access Road.

**Total calls in 2001:** 5,973

**Equipment assigned to station:** Engine, truck, and medic.

**Station personnel:** **A-Shift: Captain II James T. Ghi**, Lieutenant Charles F. Adams, Lieutenant Richard D. Hoyle, Master Technician Matthew P. Ryan, Technician Anthony E. Doran, Technician Ronald S. Pifer, Firefighter James P. Hobgood, Firefighter Patrick T. Kelly, Firefighter Michael D. Miller, and Firefighter Reginald L. Wadley. **B-Shift: Captain I Keith M. Dubetsky**, Lieutenant Pete J. Bendo, Lieutenant Kimberly A. Lucas, Lieutenant Anne L. Spieker, Master Technician Robert A. Banasik, Master Technician Stephen C. Hartman, Technician William D. Vannoy, Firefighter Keith Baughan, Firefighter Kenneth G. Geffen, Firefighter Vincent E. Krause, and Firefighter Clemente R. Rivera. **C-Shift: Captain I Gary D. Pemberton**, Lieutenant Jay D. Braithwaite, Lieutenant John L. Walser, Master Technician Cathleen C. Cody, Technician Rony E. Avalos, Technician Michael W. Whetsell, Firefighter Raymond E. Foster, Firefighter Frank J. Murphy, Firefighter Edward L. Payne, Firefighter Erik A. Rhodes, and Firefighter Clifford A. Watson

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## Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

Attn: Public Information and Life Safety Education Section  
4100 Chain Bridge Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

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